



New look, week two

This is the second week of the new look of The Journal Newspapers.

We have returned to the larger, broadsheet format that served our communities for decades and in Belleville, for more than a century.

Our former, smaller size was deliberately and carefully chosen several years ago in an attempt to break from the past and establish our publications as unique to each of the communities they served. We feel that has been accomplished and it is time to return to the industry standard, larger format.

While successfully establishing our identity in the communities, the smaller format was somewhat restrictive in the amount of page space we could devote to local news.

With our recent entry into the Greater Detroit Newspaper Network, a regional advertising sales arm, the conversion of advertising messages to our previous format was difficult and time consuming, particularly for advertisers seeking a uniform method of delivering their message.

Our new page size, which conforms to the current newspaper standard, is deeper and will allow us, we hope, to bring each of our communities more local news and provide the ability to do more analysis and detailed stories. In short, more page space, we hope, should translate into more news for our readers.

We're also hoping the new format will provide a stronger, more effective medium for our local advertisers to deliver their message to potential customers.

We have been successful in avoiding many of the glitches which usually accompany a change of this magnitude, but we aren't considering it a finished product yet. We have many more changes planned, and are hoping that we will, with the support of subscribers and advertisers, be able to implement many of them as soon as possible.

We're hoping you like the new look. If so, call and subscribe at a special reduced rate...if not, call and let us know how to better serve your needs.

Susan Willett
Publisher



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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

See
review,
page 6



DATE DUE



Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert testified before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee last week.

Casino outcome may be imminent

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus officials who traveled to Washington D.C. feel their testimony before the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee about efforts to establish an off-reservation Indian casino in the city were well received.

Mayor Alan Lambert – who spoke in favor of the casino – said he felt the members of the committee responded positively to his comments, which centered around job creation and the one-state recession in Michigan.

“After having been there, I feel we have a good chance of getting this through the House and Senate,” he said. “The members of the committee asked great questions, and I feel they supported us more than those who spoke against (the casino).”

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Opposition to the off-reservation casino plan included U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit), Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, and Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Brighton).

Lambert's trip to Washington DC – which was heavily supported by high-ranking elected officials including Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan) and Sen. Debbie

Stabenow (D-Michigan) – was the second he took in an effort to shore up support for a proposed casino.

If it comes to fruition, the \$250 million casino and adjacent hotel could bring a dedicated revenue stream of \$4 to \$10 million to Romulus, and about 3,500 jobs.

Five-year-old initiative

Romulus voters approved a ballot measure in favor of opening a casino on a vacant parcel of land near Detroit Metropolitan Airport in 2003. Since then, a letter of intent was signed by the city and the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, which could bring a casino to Romulus or Monroe through a land deal signed by former Gov. John Engler.

See **Casino**, page 3

Company seeks \$2 million in tax breaks

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A handful of new industrial jobs may come to Romulus if city council members agree to grant a tax break for a local company.

Aerostar Manufacturing, a company that manufactures machine castings, forgings and other metal products from a facility at 28275 Northline Road, has asked the city to grant a 12-year industrial facilities exemption certificate that would hold it harmless from property taxes on \$20 million in planned improvements.

Representatives from Aerostar appeared in front of council members Jan. 28 to explain why the company needed the tax break, which if approved, would save the company about \$2 million during the life of the exemption.

The planned \$20 million in improvements will allow the company to manufacture larger numbers of metal components, according to the exemption application filed with the city. As a direct result of the move, about 70 jobs would be created, according to the exemption application.

The Aerostar facility has been located in Romulus for several years.

Tax breaks – several of which have been granted to retain local businesses and jobs – have been a problem for city council because they reduce the amount of taxes the city collects on improvements.

The break will give Aerostar a 50 percent reduction in the assessed tax liability on the amount of the Northline Road expansion for the life of the exemption.

Though tax exemptions remain a concern for the city, Councilman Harry Crout he hopes to make a decision on the Aerostar request as soon as possible.

“I support the tax break because this one is bringing jobs to the city,” he said. “It's better to get some tax dollars than none at all. If we don't do it, we risk the possibility that they would go to another city, or leave the state.”

Lonnie Hampton, the representative from Aerostar listed on the

See **Aerostar**, page 3

WEB EXCLUSIVE

To learn more about who's seeking a seat on the Romulus Board of Education, visit www.journalgroup.com/romulus.

Airport riles city officials

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus city officials are strongly opposed to an expansion of the Wayne County Airport that could displace more than 800 families and wipe out some industrial buildings in favor of constructing a fifth parallel runway.

At a study session of the council Monday night, Romulus Economic Developer Tim Keyes and City Planner Cynthia Lyon outlined their opposition to the Wayne County Airport Authority Master Plan on several fronts, including the fact that the city and school district would likely lose revenue and that, in essence, the city would become smaller if the expansion of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport comes to fruition.

“We're here to explain our strategy,” said Lyon, who has attended the technical committee meetings the authority has scheduled to solicit input from local communities affected by the airport expansion. “There are several aspects of the master plan that would affect Romulus.”

Chief among them is the construction of a new runway, a new car rental area, and the general expansion of airport in an eastward direction.

The three-phase master plan outlines an expansion that would take until 2027 to complete. The plan was undertaken by the airport in accordance to Federal Aviation Administration rules and to devise a plan to meet what airport officials believe will be increased usage by business and leisure travelers in the next two decades.

The changes would be extensive. An underground or above-ground monorail system could be added to transport travelers and employees around the airport grounds by 2013. A cargo operation could be added near the Wayne-Vining Road area, and a new runway would be constructed to accommodate passenger travel.

More land would be required to make the changes, and it's likely the airport would engage in a land acquisition process to account for capacity.

The expansion of the airport would represent some big gains for the county in terms of jobs and money coming into the region, but Romulus officials said the current plan does not take the goals of the city into consideration.

According to the city assessment, as the airport expands, the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments would have to be demolished, along with 30 improved industrial buildings, 18 improved commercial buildings, the Halecreek subdivision, and Merriman Elementary School.

In all, about 800 residences would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to city officials.

Romulus Community Schools would lose about \$1.7 million in

See **Plan**, page 3

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Downtown project moves forward

Scott Spielman
Editor

Members of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) took a few steps recently to bringing a plan that would transform the downtown to fruition.

At their meeting on Jan. 30, board members decided to request proposals for a project manager and appraisal services for the development, which would envelop a large portion of Main Street.

The proposal, unveiled a few weeks earlier by Rick Walker of Walker Developments, would include a 72,000 square foot grocery store—possibly Kroger—to be located off of Main Street between Roy's and Charles streets.

The project would include space for a new library, 31,000 square feet of retail on Main Street with residential housing and office space above. Plans would cause

”
*It's a chain reaction thing.
We're trying to get that chain reaction started.*

Frank Brown

the elimination of several buildings on Main Street, including the Chase Bank, which would be rebuilt in a 4,500 square foot facility.

“They're looking to downsize,” said Belleville Mayor Richard Smith.

The DDA invited impacted residents and business owners to discuss the plan at the end of January, but had few answers since the project hasn't truly gotten off the ground.

“This is still a conceptual plan,” said Rosemary Loria, chair of the DDA. It's in the very, very, early

stages.”

The appraisal services are required because to make the project work, property would have to be acquired. Right now, that's a major uncertainty.

“We have no idea how much it's going to cost to acquire the property,” Loria said.

Some business owners were concerned with the fate of their property and wished they had had advance knowledge that such a plan was even in the discussion phases.

“Nobody mentioned that I should hold off putting any money

into my building because it was going to be torn down,” said Dr. Ibrahim Jawad, who recently completed renovations at his building on Main Street.

Others were concerned about the design for a new library, since the old building falls within the area potentially impacted by the project. A plan to convert it into a two-story space within the new development caused concern for several residents and patrons.

Loria said, though, that nobody had any answers to those kinds of questions yet.

“There's a lot to do yet,” she said. “This is all conceptual.”

Frank Brown, a member of the DDA board, said the project would hopefully help all businesses within the downtown and bring more money into the DDA, too.

“It's a chain reaction thing,” he said. “We're trying to get that chain reaction started.”

Air museum event is Saturday

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Hearts will once again go out to the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville this weekend as volunteers work to generate funds for the museum.

The “Hearts Go Out to Yankee” auction and dinner will take place at 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Hellenic Cultural Center, located at 36375 Joy Road in Westland. The event is semi-formal, black-tie optional, according to Bob Hynes, public relations coordinator for the museum.

“This is an annual event that's a big fundraiser for us,” he said. “We'll have some great items and it's all to benefit the building fund.”

Live auction items include airplane rides, one-day trips, vacation packages, a hot-air balloon ride, jackets, game tickets and dinner passes.

Silent auction items include golf games, gift certificates, framed aircraft photos, gift baskets and more, said Hynes.

Since a fire in 2004 destroyed the Belleville air museum, officials have been working to generate funds for a new facility. Yankee Air Museum volunteers hope to start their educational program this spring in area school districts.

About 300 programs will be started, along with the refurbished Willow Run schoolhouse on the property, according to Dick Stewart, president of the Yankee Air Museum.

“The museum is rebuilding so all the proceeds go to that fund,” he said.

”
*The Yankee Air Museum
maintains a history of the
area and we want to carry
on that tradition.*

Dick Stewart

cater the dinner and an open bar will be available, too. The silent auction will start at 5 p.m., with dinner to follow at 6 p.m. and the live auction at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

“The campus we'll have one day is worth seeing,” said Hynes. “Our aim down the line is to do everything we can to get the building going. We'll have some of the finest artifacts ever seen. The fire was a tragedy, but it got us going in a new direction: the history of Willow Run, World War II and encompassing all history of aircraft. We hope to be one of the greatest air museums in the world.”

“Donate, donate, donate,” said Stewart. “We have a big job ahead of us.”

“The Yankee Air Museum maintains a history of the area and we want to carry on that tradition to let people know about the aviation history of the Detroit area,” he added.

For more information visit www.yankeearmuseum.org or call (734) 483-4030.

“One-hundred million would be nice,” he added jokingly. “But, I'd like to raise about \$50,000 for the schoolhouse and that should take us over.”

The latest architectural and conceptual drawings of the museum will also be unveiled during the auction event, officials said.

Tickets are \$75 per person for the benefit or \$650 for a corporate table. Elite Catering in Livonia will

Township OKs new fire trucks

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Van Buren Township Fire Department will soon take delivery of two new fire trucks.

Township trustees approved the bid contract from Spencer Manufacturing for one rescue-engine pumper and one heavy-duty rescue squad recently at a cost of \$852,648.

Township Supervisor Cindy King said the engines will be paid over four years with an initial payment in 2008.

“We're looking at first paying about \$181,500 a year for about four years,” she said. “It will also come out of monies from the landfill fund.”

The township received eight bids and Spencer Manufacturing was the lowest, officials said.

“They're also a Michigan based company that provides defect warranties up to 15 years,” said King.

The rescue-engine pumper will carry water, hoses and look similar to a traditional fire engine, according to Fire Chief Mark Nicholai. He said it will be able to carry more equipment than the previous engine sold last year, and is basically a one-stop-fire shop.

The heavy-duty rescue squad will carry special needs equipment, such as a cascade system. Both will have large light towers, which is new equipment for the fire department.

“They will be able to light up a football field,” Nicholai said.

The new trucks will also reduce maintenance costs, Nicholai added.

Delivery is expected in about a year, officials said.

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THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R)
27 DRESSES (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
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Airport plan could mean the end for Merriman School

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus Community Schools could be forced to close Merriman Elementary School under the latest version of the Wayne County Airport Authority Master Plan.

Merriman Elementary, situated on Merriman Road, would have to be demolished to make room for a new runway that would be part of a proposed expansion of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Apparently, no one at the schools has been informed of the possibility of losing Merriman School, said Tim Keyes, Romulus economic development director.

“We have not had a dialogue with them, but we’re going to meet with them,” he said.

Betty Lenossi, a trustee on the Romulus School Board, said she knew nothing of the airport master plan, and expressed dismay that such a plan was being considered by the authority and planners without regard to the school.

“I haven’t heard anything about this, and its not something I would support,” she said. “I would not want to lose Merriman.”

She said she’s not sure if the district would have recourse if the master plan were implemented, however.

“I don’t know if there’s anything we could do to stop it because its (Wayne) County, and they just come in,” she said. “It’s like trying to fight city hall – you can’t do it.

“I had some friends that lived along Middlebelt Road . . the county offered to buy them out, but they didn’t get anywhere near what there property was worth,” Lenossi added.

A building is not the only thing the school system would lose in the three-phase airport expansion plan. According to city estimates, a 1,700-acre expansion of the airport would reduce the amount of assessed taxes because the actual size of the city would be reduced.

Estimates indicate that the schools could lose about \$1.7 million in revenue over the course of the expansion, said Cynthia Lyon, planner for the city of Romulus.

The Airport Authority has been revising the master plan to meet a projected increase in the number of fliers by 2027. The expansion includes a new runway, development of a car rental area and a new cargo operation.

The expansion would effectively reduce the size of the city, and the changes are located in the northernmost part

of the city — a place where the city would rather not see expansion.

Last year, school officials considered exploring the idea of closing an elementary school to save money, but the plan was largely shelved when the district was able to shore up out-of-district enrollment. Even when the discussion was ongoing, Merriman was never one of the buildings that was considered for closing, Lenossi said.

“I don’t think that’s going to happen now,” she said. “We’re not looking at closing a school anymore.”

Keyes said he believes the schools could be an asset in terms of discouraging the airport from implementing the current plan.

“It’s going to require all of the local governments — other cities, and the schools — get together to oppose the master plan,” he said.

Romulus Community Schools currently operates five elementary schools — Merriman, Barth, Cory, Halecreek and Romulus. At this time, about 1,200 students attend those schools. About 300 of those students attend Merriman Elementary School.

Merriman students have performed well on standardized tests, Lenossi said.

Calendar of events

Underground Railroad lecture set

Young people will have the opportunity to learn more about the Underground Railroad and its connection to Romulus at 6 p.m. Feb. 28 when the “Underground Railroad History” lecture comes to the library.

Lecturers will speak about the areas of the city that were once part of complex Underground Railroad system and the work of local abolitionists. Students will discover the meaning and interpretation of quilt codes, and will be given the opportunity to create their own codes.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road. For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Starfish offers music program

Inkster residents can enjoy educational playtime with their children by participating in the Tiny Tikes Kindermusik class offered at the Starfish Family Services’ Family Resource Center in Inkster beginning in February.

The program is free to the public and made possible through a partnership with Wayne County RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency) and a Great Parents, Great Start grant.

The Tiny Tikes class incorporates the Kindermusik ABC Music and Me curriculum, which is based on the premise that making music a part of a child’s daily life improves their ability to move, think, create, reason, and express themselves. The class is offered to children from newborn to 5 (who are not attending kindergarten) and their parents or caregivers. It is designed to promote language, social, gross motor and early literacy skills through music and movement.

The class will be offered from 3:45-5:15 p.m. every other Monday throughout May. Classes will meet at the Starfish Family Services Family Resource Center at 30000 Hiveley Road.

For more information, call Starfish at (734) 728-3400.

Grief support available

The Hospice of Michigan will host two series of grief support meetings for those in the community coping with the loss of a loved one.

A series of meetings will take place Sundays through March 16 at 9 a.m. at the Romulus Wesleyan Church.

Another series of meetings will take place at 6:00 p.m. Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Romulus Public Library through March 20.

Romulus Wesleyan Church is located at 37300 Goddard. The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information about the seminars, call the Hospice of Michigan at (734) 769-4212 or visit the organization Web site at www.hom.org

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen. To publish an event, send information to mtippen@journalgroup.com.

New recycling plant proposed in Romulus

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A new recycling plant appears to be headed for Romulus.

Great Lakes Recycling Co., which operates a facility in Roseville, had acquired a piece of land in Taylor and was prepared to build a facility in that city, but later discovered that the land was contaminated.

Jim DiMarco, the sales manager for the company, said he was hopeful the city would be able to relax some ordinance restrictions to allow the company to pursue more parcels of land for the facility.

“We already have the building designed, and the entire operation is inside,” he said.

Great Lakes is a company that receives recyclables – tin cans, newspapers, plastic bottles, metals – from large trash haulers like Republic or Waste Management and organizes them into bundles that can then be recycled. The business is founded on an exact sorting

process, which occurs on site.

The entire process, at least in Romulus, would take place inside, which means the building would comply aesthetically in a lighter industrial area or a heavy industrial area, said John Hawthorne, the chief operating officer of Great Lakes.

“It’s to our advantage to have everything inside because if items like newspapers get wet, it could get stuck in our machines, and then you have paper mache,” he said. “When the trucks drop off items, it would be inside, so there wouldn’t be any bales or containers that were visible.”

In Roseville, Great Lakes operates a facility on a 14-acre parcel along Groesbeck Road that does have some outside activities, said Hawthorne.

“We retrofitted that facility,” he said, adding that the company has a better idea about what it needs in a building.

Right now, the owners of Great Lakes are hoping the city can locate

a 10- to 15- acre parcel of land for the facility. Though such an operation would be classified as heavy industrial or a special land use, which would require additional approvals, City Planner Cynthia Lyon said now might be a good time to consider a different route.

“We’re looking at the zoning code right now,” she said. “It may be a good time to consider if we want to allow this type of development (in a different zoning classification).”

A Romulus facility would increase truck traffic wherever Great Lakes builds, however. The company would take in materials from about 18 to 20 large trucks per day. Those trucks typically look like garbage trucks, but Hawthorne was careful to point out that no trash would be dropped off at the site.

Councilman William Wadsworth said he like the idea of the facility in Romulus.

“It was a great presentation, and I imagine if we had more facilities like this one, we’d have a cleaner community,” he said.



Donuts for Dads

The annual Donuts for Dads event took place at Cory Elementary School last month. More than 25 fathers, grandfathers and caregivers attended the event during which students were able to share donuts with their special guests before beginning the school day. Cory second-grader Tayelor Matthews’ special guest was her stepfather, Rodney Everette.

Plan

FROM PAGE 1

revenue generated from businesses and residences in the area.

The city would also be about 7 percent smaller, and could lose about 3,500 residents, according to city research.

City leaders said they believe the airport has not been responsive to its point of view regarding the plan.

“They think they can come in here and get what they want, and they’ve been able to do that because no one was watching, but that’s not going to happen this time,” said Councilman William Wadsworth, who worked as a Wayne County Airport police officer for 30 years.

“I think we need to see about getting it into litigation,” he added.

Michael Conway, a spokesman for the airport authority, denies that the plan would negatively affect the city, and said the city concerns have been taken into consideration.

“Romulus has been in attendance at every single one of our technical and citizen committee meetings, and they’ve written several letters, so we’re aware of their concerns,” he said. “The master plan is required by the FAA – you have to have one to get funds from the government.”

Conway added that the plan would not be complete for about another 20 years, and it would only take place if air travel increases at

the airport.

“Right now, we believe that air travel will increase an average of 2.3 percent annually,” he said. “That’s an average – there many be some years when air travel is flat. But we know that some expansion is needed for us to grow, and for the region to grow.

“It’s a good thing for the area if we expand, because the airport is an economic engine in this region,” he added. “I know they would be happy if we kept the new runway and other improvements behind our fence, but the reality is that we just don’t have the capacity we need.”

He also said the airport authority would work to help displaced residents.

“Who’s to say that we can’t assist in relocating people who have been displaced?” he said. “There’s no reason that couldn’t happen.”

The city of Romulus surrounds the airport, and what happens at the airport is inextricably linked to the city, said Keyes.

“What we’re looking at doing is talking with other governments, the school district, and the private sector to talk about the airport plans,” he said. “We need to get support from other governments to oppose the plan.”

Wadsworth said the expansion should take place north of Interstate 94 as opposed to on the south and east quadrants of the city.

“If its north of I-94, I say, go ahead and take it,” he said. “That’s what its there for.”

Casino

FROM PAGE 1

The land claim deal was struck in 1996. Engler signed a settlement with two Indian tribes – including the Chippewa – that would allow the tribes to make a land claim on non-reservation parcels. The caveat was that the tribes would then drop litigation associated with land claims in the Upper Peninsula.

During the proceedings, the focus was on that land deal more than it was ideological concerns about gambling and the prospect that a casino in Romulus could siphon away jobs and business from Detroit, which has three casinos that already compete with another in Windsor, Ontario.

“The bottom line is that I think they realized that there is a valid land claim,” Lambert said.

“That has to be dealt with.”

Opposing viewpoints

Detroit officials and several others throughout the state oppose building another casino

for various reasons.

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick reiterated his position on a casino in Romulus is that it would negatively impact the economic success of the three casinos in the city, said his spokesman, James Canning.

Rogers, a conservative Republican, also spoke against having an off-reservation casino.

The city was recently handed a setback when the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs rejected the Hannahville application to place several acres of land near Interstate 94 and Vining Road in a trust that would pave the way for and Indian casino to operate on land not deemed a reservation.

Romulus Councilman Harry Crout said he would like to see the issue resolved soon.

“I think (the casino) is something we need because of the jobs situation here,” he said. “But one way or another, I think we’ll know this week or next what’s going to happen with this.”

Next steps

Aerostar will receive the exemption based on a formula that assesses the number of years the company has been in the city, the amount of the abatement, the amount of dollars generated by the expansion and the number of jobs provided.

That determination will then be approved, or denied, by the seven-member council.

Recently, the city updated its

Today, the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee will reconvene to discuss the casino issue as it relates to the state. Several scenarios could play out depending on that decision.

There are actually two bills that could affect the fate of a Romulus casino, including a bill regarding a similar situation in Port Huron. Lambert said he has heard the two bills could be combined.

Two scenarios could play out at the committee meeting. The members could immediately move the bill into Congress for a vote, or pass it to the Rules Committee, where it could be modified and then sent to Congress for a vote.

If Congress votes to approve the issue, it would then move onto the U.S. Senate for another vote.

However, if the bill fails in Congress or the Senate, the casino could be a dead issue in Romulus.

Either way, its do-or-die time for the city, Lambert said.

“We have at least a 50-50 chance of winning this,” he said. “We have to take the shot.”

Aerostar

FROM PAGE 1

application documents, did not return calls seeking comment about the situation Tuesday.

According to state law, industrial exemptions can be granted for no longer than 12 years. The city financial department will determine the number of years

policy regarding tax breaks to industrial companies to make it friendlier to businesses that are creating jobs.

Approval or denial of exemption requests was heavily weighted toward companies located in the city for several years, but council members determined late last year that the strategy wasn’t conducive to job development.

OPINION

Comcast Cable changes channels again

After apologizing for a widely criticized attempt to move PEG (Public Education and Government) channels out of range of most viewers, officials from Comcast Cable tried another approach on Friday.

They told members of the Conference of Western Wayne that they were trying to do them a favor:

The criticized change was to move PEG channels to the 900 range, where they would be seen in digital high definition. Everything would look better, according to Comcast officials, and it preceded a mandated change that would happen in a year or so anyway. Plus, it would allow the company to remain competitive with satellite dish services, which already provide more digital programming than most cable providers.

The problem with it was that it would leave some 400,000 customers unable to view the channels, since most televisions are not capable of accessing the channel—without a digital converter box, anyway. That box, which initially would be provided for free, would ultimately cost customers an

”

After apologizing for a widely criticized attempt to move PEG (Public Education and Government) channels out of range of most viewers, officials from Comcast Cable tried another approach on Friday.

additional \$4 a month.

Not surprisingly, the members of the Conference of Western Wayne were unconvinced by this new line.

Representatives from other video franchises were on hand, too. Throughout this public relations debacle, they

have taken the right approach. They've sat back and watched the reaction to the Comcast move, probably to see if they should give it a shot or not. The answer? Not yet.

Competition will remain an important part of this emerging industry. In theory, that was the goal of the state wide video franchise legislation when it was introduced and approved last year. It just hasn't worked out to the benefit of residents, yet, and that's been our concern all along. It was initially thought that it would leave local officials out of the loop when it came to jurisdiction over cable services; it removed their ability to negotiate individually with cable service providers to ensure that residents got some return for the use of public rights of way and so on.

This issue has proved that that isn't exactly the case, though. When local elected officials ban together, they can still make some noise and get their way.

That's a good thing, too. If there is competition between cable service providers, it should be to include everyone, not to exclude some of us.

Time limits are fair

Once again, first amendment rights have popped up in the City of Westland.

This time, city officials have drawn fire for trying to reduce the time citizens can speak at public meetings.

Before anyone gets into an uproar, we said 'reduce' not eliminate.

Nobody wants to eliminate the rights of citizens to address issues to their governing body. Westland City Council members would be silly to even suggest it and nobody in their right mind would stand for such a thing.

That being said, let's look at the way Westland conducts business compared to other surrounding municipalities. In Westland, citizens have a full five minutes to talk in two different time slots, one at the beginning and one at the end of the meeting. They can also comment on an individual agenda item when it comes up for discussion, too.

In nearly every other community we can think of, citizens are limited to three minutes—and sometimes two—at the beginning of the meeting and during discussion on agenda items.

A reduction to four minutes hardly seems like the introduction to the age of censorship.

We'd like to offer a word of caution, here, though. Some ideas have propped up to cut some comments from the video of meetings, or of turning the cameras off during citizens' comments, or initiating a policy against slanderous words. That is entering a gray area. If there is a policy, it should be a fair one, applied to everyone in the same way.

We'd like to think that people can make their point without being offensive. We'd like to think that they can state their piece without cutting someone else down, or spreading lies and innuendo. That should be the individual's responsibility, not the government's.

If the Westland City Council wants to reduce time for public comments to one four-minute period—with the caveat that if they run out of time at the beginning of the meeting, they can revisit it at the end—we say go ahead.

At the same time, we think they should keep their own time for talk to a minimum, too. God knows, they get enough time to talk as it is.



He's a man who'll be missed

The City of Wayne lost one of its most unique characteristics last week.

Wayne Mayor Al Haidous, at last, turned over the keys to the store he operated for so long.

Don't get me wrong, I don't begrudge Haidous his retirement. Thirty-four years is a long time to work in any industry, and anyone who knew him or stopped by Al's Market on Howe and Annapolis streets would testify that it wasn't just a 9-5, Monday through Friday job.

No, sir. He was almost always there and when he wasn't, his wife, Mary, spent time behind the register.

They've both earned their leisure years, no one would doubt that.

I'm sure the new owner, Bob Foumia, will do a good job there at the corner. The store already looks better; brighter, more open. He's planning on bringing new services there, too, that will probably be welcome within the neighborhood.

It's only been a few days since the change was made official, but I already can't help feeling a little nostalgic about it.

Like many other Wayne residents, I spent plenty of time in the store talking with Haidous about the current affairs of the city; what was going on, what we

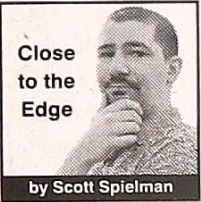
wanted to go on. He had a good way with people there—and some of them didn't come in with nice things to say, either.

His presence and easy availability gave Wayne a Norman Rockwell feel that attracted me from the first time I visited. I always thought it was a unique thing to be able to go in and grab a pop and sound off about some issue without worrying about how you looked on camera. Chances are, he would either know the answer people looked for, or knew right away how to get it and residents left feeling a lot better than when they came in.

Haidous has pledged that he will still be available to citizens. He'll still be easy to find and he won't shirk on his mayoral duties at all. I believe him. I've always thought that he had the best interest of the community in his heart; that he got into politics for the right reasons—not just to see his name on a plaque or on a wall in city hall or to have a nice title to put at the end of a resume.

He'll be around; he'll be available and he'll still continue his mayoral duties, of that I have no doubt.

He'll also be missed at the corner of Howe and Annapolis. I have no doubt about that, too.



Close to the Edge
by Scott Spielman

Superintendent is praised

To the editor:

The reality of Dr. Jim Ryan's retirement as superintendent of the Plymouth/Canton Schools is just beginning to settle in. This reality caused me to reflect back, with respect, on the leadership legacy of Dr. Ryan. My thoughts take me back to pre-Ryan years and my time as a Canton Township Planning Commissioner. The school board and the township experienced remarkable challenges in the community planning process. We struggled to get on the same page. The arrival of Dr. Jim Ryan at the helm of the Plymouth/Canton school system signaled a change. That change has remained positive and communicative with the township. The word "vision" has long been rightly associated with Township Supervisor Tom Yack and, in my

humble opinion, "vision" should also describe the storied tenure of Dr. Ryan.

He led teams that passed a 2004 board to make needed infrastructure improvements, created the Literacy Early Achievement Program (LEAP), improved student achievement scores, received six straight "unqualified" ratings by independent auditors, advanced the district's curriculum, twice settled 10 union contracts and personally has been a successful fundraiser for the Education Excellence Foundation. I would like to publicly thank James Ryan as a resident of Canton and as a Canton Township Trustee. Your willingness to work together will long be remembered and recognized. Enjoy your retirement. Your community will forever benefit from your impact.

Karl Zarbo,
Canton Township Trustee

Downtown development is plan dubious

If I were an optimist, I'd say the new re-development plan for downtown Belleville could be the best thing to happen to the city, and will take place as planned and in the time frame officials have suggested. Since I'm a pessimist who's skeptical of everything, however, I have my doubts.

The major result of the informational meeting with Downtown Development Authority board members, city officials and residents recently seemed to be that questions far outweighed answers regarding the project.

Walker Developments has proposed a 72,000 square foot grocery store to be located off Main Street between Roy's and Charles streets. It would also include a new library, 31,000 square feet of retail, residential housing and office space. Plans could eliminate several buildings on Main Street, too, like Chase Bank, which would be rebuilt, and municipal parking would be added around the city.

On paper, the plan sounds like a good idea and, while I'm desperate to see a change, I have my doubts as to whether or not the project will actually happen. How will it be funded? How will businesses be affected both during and after construction? Those are just a

few of the many questions being asked.

Officials keep saying this is just a "possible" re-development plan or a "concept" plan. There are still board approvals to be obtained, appraisals for property owners to take place and the bonding-out for this project, even though the two projects—this and the streetscape—will be folded together.

The re-development plan is being done 'one-step-at-a-time', officials said, and negotiations are taking place on the agreement, RFP's (Requests For Proposals) for a project manager are in the works, along with the proposals for appraisers.

The streetscape project is a step in the right direction for the city, but there still needs to be more. Retail and residential development are definitely needed—that's for certain—I just hope the city can get their plans and funding in order to get the project done.

The next Belleville Downtown Development Authority meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 20. It won't be a 'town-hall' meeting, but it most certainly will be a chance for residents to once again ask questions and hopefully get some answers.



King's Court
by Andrea King

JOURNAL

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Township firefighters, divers complete ice rescue class

The Van Buren Township Fire and Rescue Department, along with the Van Buren Township underwater search and rescue dive team, hosted a basic surface ice rescue training class for local firefighters and emergency responders.

The eight-hour class incorporated classroom and practical evolutions designed to educate responders on how to size-up, recognize and initiate an effective surface ice rescue. Participants also had an opportunity to train with the Van Buren fire and

rescue sled, according to officials.

Both the City of Belleville and the Van Buren Township fire departments require all personnel to be trained in sur-

face ice rescue. There were 10 first-time participants between both departments who completed the

requirements and, will be certified through Dive Rescue International, officials said.

CITY OF ROMULUS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING 35445 VAN BORN

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The City and Village Zoning Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2008** for the purpose of considering a variance request. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has set the public hearing to consider a variance from Section 4.25.D.2., Signs, of the City of Romulus Zoning Ordinance to allow a 75-square foot freestanding sign. The Sign Ordinance only permits a maximum of 64-square feet; therefore, an 11-square foot variance is required for the proposed sign. The subject property is located at 35445 Van Born Road. DP# 82-80-017-01-0109-302. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, March 5, 2008 and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: February 14, 2008

THE CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Bid 07/08-19 Ultrasonic Gun Cleaning Equipment - Rpd
Bid 07/08-20 Recreation Event Scheduling & Tracking Software
Bid 07/08-21 Speed Radar Equipment - Rpd

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/s and/or service/s.

Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Agent, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing lconway@ci.romulus.mi.us or under Departments, in the Purchasing Department from the City of Romulus Web Site, <http://ci.romulus.mi.us>

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the *City Clerk's Office* no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE BID NUMBER AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED TO:

BID #
CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE
11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174

- (1) At approximately 3:15p.m. bid packages received shall be publicly opened and read
(2) The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: February 14, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 PM to consider the following:

An ordinance to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92, as amended to establish new regulations for Re-Zoning with Conditions as follows:

ARTICLE XVIII to include a new subsection titled SECTION 18.09 – RE-ZONING WITH CONDITIONS.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Development Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Development Services Department until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should feel free to contact the Development Services Department at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 1, 2008
Publish: February 7, 2008
February 14, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Van Buren Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 to consider the following:

An Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92, as amended of the Charter Township of Van Buren to amend the following:

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.24B WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.

A complete text of the proposed amendment will be available for review at the Township Department of Development Services Office. Written comments will be accepted at the Development Services Department until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing.

In spirit of compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals with disability should feel free to contact the Development Services Department at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: February 1, 2008
Publish: February 7, 2008
February 14, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Treasurer Budd. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Parks and Recreation Director Ross, DPW Director Knepper, Fire Chief Nicholai, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of six (6).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Payne seconded to approve the agenda as amended with the deletion of "New Business" Item #7 "Consider attorney's recommendation regarding pending litigation in case #06-605026-CH.". Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Clair moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of January 7, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2008 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email from a resident of Andover Farms subdivision thanking Sergeant Yono for assistance resolving a parking situation.

The Van Buren Township 2008 Board of Review will held on March 4th, (an organizational meeting) from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon, March 10th, from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 12th, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and March 13th, 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Appeals may be submitted in writing without personal appearance and must be received on or before March 14, 2008. Any taxpayer wishing to appeal in person must call 734.699.8946 to schedule an appointment.

On February 21st the Belleville Area Historical Society will be hosting a program by Jackie Martin on Detroit's Most Devastating Days: The 1967 Riots at the Belleville Area Museum located at 405 Main Street, Belleville at 7:00 p.m. This event is free to the public.

The Belleville Area Museum is looking for quilts to display for their annual March Quilt Display. If you are interested in loaning your quilt to the museum please call 734.697.1944 by February 8th.

Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, March 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Downriver Community Conference located at 15100 Northline Road, Southgate. For more information contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at 734.326.3936.

On Saturday, February 9th a benefit Ham Dinner will be held for the Wayne County Fair Association at the Wayne County Fair Grounds located at 10871 Quirk Road.

On Friday, February 15th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saint Anthony Catholic Church will host a Fish Dinner at the church located at 409 West Columbia.

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life kick-off meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Wayne County Fair Grounds located at 10871 Quirk Road. For more information or to R.S.V.P. contact Cheryl Gniewek at 248.663.3430.

On Saturday, March 1st the Women of the Moose will host a charity poker tournament at Belleville Moose Lodge located at 831 East Huron River Drive. Registration begins at noon and play begins at 2:00 p.m. and for more information call 734.697.2111.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-03 Wade

Trim 2008 rate schedule. Carried.

Payne moved, Rochowiak seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-04 Wayne County Annual Permit, A-08045 and Resolution 2008-05 Block Party and Road Closure Permit, A-08034. Carried.

Jahr moved, Clair seconded to approve the appointment of Margaret Thompson to the September Days Senior Citizens Endowment Committee with term to expire January 15, 2010 and to send a letter of thanks to Sarah Brown for contribution to the Endowment Committee. Carried.

Clair moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve permit application UT #5662735 M63107 1034-07-1881 by AT&T to install telecommunications infrastructure in the northerly portion of the Denton Road public right of way between two driveways into the Harbour Club Apartments. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Payne seconded to approve permit application PN #6213461 M63107 1034-07-1881 by AT&T to install telecommunications infrastructure in the easterly portion of the Belleville Road public right of way, from a point south of Venetian Avenue and terminating just south of 11661 Belleville Road. Carried.

Hart moved, Jahr seconded to approve the contract from Spencer Manufacturing for the purchase of one (1) Rescue-engine (pumper) and one (1) heavy-duty rescue squad in the amount of \$852,648 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Hart moved, Clair seconded to approve the February 5, 2008 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the December 2007 Public Safety Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Township Administrative offices will be closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents' Day. Due to the closing the Work Study Session will be held on Tuesday, February 19th at 4:00 p.m. prior to the 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting.

The Recreation Department announced the following events: The 13th annual Daddy Daughter Dance will take place on Friday, February 8th and Saturday, February 9th. Open registration begins on March 3rd for summer day camp. Four camps will be held, Tot Camp, Day Camp, Tween Camp and Club Teen. For more information on programs or events contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 699.8926.

DPW Director Knepper announced employee Jeff Osborn recently celebrated his 20 year anniversary as a township employee. Supervisor King stated he will be recognized by the Township at a future board meeting.

A resident inquired when the next Planning Commission Meeting will be held. Director Kelley stated February 13th at 7:30 p.m.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Clair seconded to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: February 14, 2008

THE SCENE

Film mines nothing but audience indifference

At least the makers of the lackluster romantic comedy *Fool's Gold* had a sense of humor when they were writing the title.

Directed by Andy Tennant, this 90 minute cruise through cliché ville starts off with good intentions, but ends up bogged down by indifferent acting, an aimless script and an utter lack of romantic chemistry.

The film begins with Benjamin Finnegan, played by eternally scruffy Matthew McConaughey, discovering a clue to the treasure he and his wife have been seeking off the coast of Florida for years. After evading menacing hijinks by the local kingpin, rapper Bigg Bunny (Kevin Hart) who financed Finnegan's excursion, Ben runs off to attend his divorce hearing, in hopes of convincing his wife, Tess, to give him one last chance.

Unfortunately Tess, played by an oddly listless Kate Hudson, has already divorced Ben when he arrives, but finds herself intrigued by his discovery. Tess has spent years searching for the sunken 18th century Spanish dowry, and decides to ask her millionaire employer Nigel Honeycutt, played by Donald Sutherland, to bankroll the excursion. Before she gets a chance, however, Ben beats her to the punch, and the two decide to embark on one last adventure, for old time's sake.

Bigg Bunny, of course, hasn't forgotten Ben's wild tales of the legendary Spanish dowry and sets off to find the treasure himself, setting off a life and death race for a fortune neither party is certain exists.

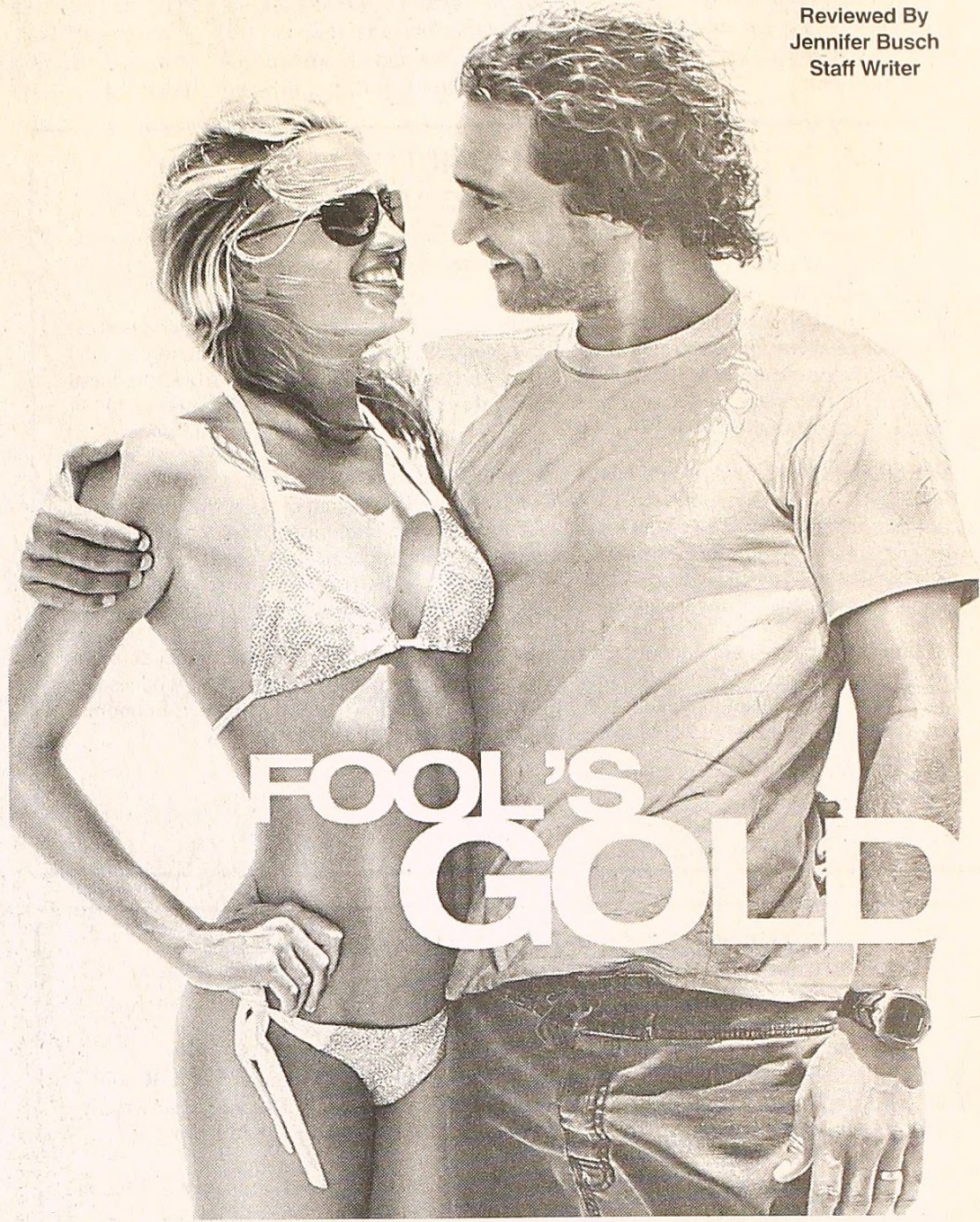
This film is so predictable that you can anticipate the "surprises" three scenes in advance, and villains pop up from behind bushes *Scooby-Doo* style, just as Ben and Tess make their most critical discoveries.

The only surprise is that Ben and Tess tolerate each other's company at all, with McConaughey reduced to a slab of blockhead beefcake and Hudson wane and shrew like, her schoolmarm bun bobbing in near constant disapproval. In fact, both actors spend most of the movie pointedly ignoring one another, and though this may have been Tennant's answer to the couples recent uncoupling, to the audience it just reads like indifference.

The fact that each character is playing a cliché doesn't help matters, and only serves to elevate the basic aimlessness of the script. The millionaire bank roller? The never do well husband? The fed up wife? Nigel Honeycutt? The writers of this film were either getting all their ideas from *Gilligan's Island* reruns, or thought their blatant condensation was ironic. Either way, they were way off course.

Still, this film isn't completely without charm, and if you prefer your adventures sitcom style, you may find it a pleasant diversion. If you preferred the *Temple of Doom* in the *Indiana Jones* series, for instance, this might be just your cup of tea. Those who prefer their adventure films a little more, I don't know, adventurous, might want to keep looking.

Reviewed By
Jennifer Busch
Staff Writer



CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries	31. Help Wanted Sales	50. Pets & Supplies	64. Lawn & Garden Supplies	78. Hunting / Fishing	98. Mobile Homes for Rent	110. Lots for Sale
02. In Memoriam	32. Help Wanted Drivers	54. Rummage Sales	65. Tree Service	82. Wanted to Buy	99. Flats for Rent	111. Out of State Property
03. Cards of Thanks	33. Child Care	55. Estate Sales	66. Landscape / Nurseries	87. Room for Rent	100. Will Share	112. Commercial Lease
04. Monuments	34. Specialized Services	56. Flea Markets	67. Garden Plant / Supplies	88. Duplexes for Rent	101. Wanted to Rent	113. Real Estate Wanted
05. Personals/Announcements	35. Situations Wanted	57. Antiques	68. Garden / Produce	89. Apartments for Rent	102. Storage	114. Auto Accessories
06. Legal Notices	40. Business Opportunity	58. Garage and Yard Sales	70. Masonry / Brickwork	90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent	103. Business Property for Sale	115. Autos for Sale
07. Attorneys	42. Health and Fitness	59. Auctions	72. Cleaning Services	92. Business Places for Rent	104. Farms & Acreage for Sale	116. Antique & Classic Cars
08. Entertainment	43. Money to Loan	60. Misc. Sales	73. Musical Merchandise	93. Banquet Halls	105. Mobile Homes for Sale	117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
09. Lost & Found	44. Music/Art Lessons	61. Misc. Items	74. Sporting Goods	94. Farm Land for Rent	106. Houses for Sale	118. Freebies
10. Coming Events	45. Adult Care	62. Building Supplies	75. Boats / Accessories	95. Real Estate	107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale	119. Auto Repairs
30. Help Wanted	46. Private Schools/Instruction	63. Business and Office Equipment	76. Remodeling & Renovations	96. Houses for Rent	108. Lake and Resort	120. Motorcycles
	47. Riding/Horses/Stables		77. Recreation Vehicles	97. Cottages for Rent	109. Income Property	121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries

BROWNING, Pricy "Granny", February 4, 2008 age 80 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Losie. Dear mother of Stella, (the late Robert) Scott, Lois, (Bobby) Killen, Woodrow (Linda) Miller, James (Libby) Miller, Elizabeth (Hobert) McCoy, James (Deneen) Browning, L.B. (Brenda) Browning and Peggy (Ronnie) Pritt. Also survived by brother, Jack Layne and sister, Ethel Layne, several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Brother of the late Earl, Frank, Donald and Walter Layne, Mary Dotson and Lizzie Leedy. Services were held at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland with Pastor Joe Jones officiating. Burial was at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne. Please visit and leave a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com

Willard (Patricia) Rickwalt and sister Alice Rickwalt. Funeral services were held at the Collon Funeral Home in Caro, MI. Memorials may be made to the Martha Johnson Family Discretionary Fund, c/o Lynn Tollerfson, 3074 Upper Five Mile Rd., Williamsburg, OH 45176



HUBY, Rev. Charlotte B., age 58 of Romulus, passed

February 1, 2008. Dear mother of Edwin J. (Stephanie) Huby and Dr. Nicole M. Huby, and grandmother of 3. Sister of Sharon (Comer) McNeil, Debora (Mendrate) Love, Brenda (Harold) Sullivan and Wanda Mayes. She was currently a teacher at Mark Twain Elementary School in Detroit, MI. Previously she taught at Beacon School. She was a member of the Eastern Star and the AFL-CIO Detroit Teachers Federation. She participated in the United Conference For Women. She was proud of her affiliation with First Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and participated in all other activities. Visitation Thursday, Feb. 7, from 12:00 - 8:00 PM, with Family Hour from

6:00 - 8:00 PM at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd., Romulus, MI. Services were held at First Baptist Church, Romulus, MI, with Rev. Charles P. Woolridge officiating. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

www.cranefuneralhome.com

STROME, Donna of Belleville, died February 9, 2008. Beloved wife of Kenneth. Dear mother of Dorothy and Joy Lynn (Kenneth). Dear daughter of William Davis and the late Dorothy. Dear sister of Frances Davis and Linda Davis. Grandmother of 6, and "Hama" to Andy. Funeral services were held

at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave. Wayne

WALK, Jean passed away at her Saline home on Thurs., Feb. 7, 2008. She was born Feb. 9, 1927, the daughter of Jefferson and Olive (Garrison) Moore. On July 21, 1945 in Bowling Green,

Ohio, Jean married Samuel Walk. He preceded her in death on Oct. 10, 1988. Jean retired from Ford Motor Company. She is survived by her son, Allan (Gerry) Walk of Pinckney, MI and daughters, Alyse (Richard) Sliter of Ypsilanti, MI and Sally (Randy) Cooper of Kingwood TX. Other survivors include her grandchil-

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dren, Jeffery Knox, Angela Knox, Aaron Walk, Andy (Amanda) Walk, Lauren, Rachel and Samuel Cooper; great grandchildren, Travis Knox, Nick Knox and Chloe Walk; her sisters, Hope Derr, Ina Jones, Faye Langford and Olive Mache. Funeral services were held at the Robinson-Bahnmiller Funeral Home in Saline, MI. Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland, MI. Memorial contributions are requested to the American Lung Association of Michigan and to the Washtenaw County Veterans Honor Guard. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

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Sports

Smooth operation 17 teams compete at Canton invite

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

What do you get when gather about 148 leotards in one cavernous gymnasium?
That's easy—about five and half hours of some of the best gymnastics in the state of Michigan.

Canton hosted its annual Canton Invitational at Plymouth High School on Saturday. The tournament is considered one of the biggest and best in the state with 11 of the top 12 teams in the state attending the 17-team meet.

As always, it went off with out a hitch and nearly on time—one minute over its scheduled time.

That was all thanks to Canton gymnastics coach and meet director John Cunningham. The tournament was a week later than planned because of school cancellation on Feb. 1—the day prior to the scheduled invitational. He scrambled at the last minute and rescheduled all 17 teams for Saturday.

"Everything went smooth," he said. "When you have good teams it always goes smooth because everyone is ready to go."

The only thing that put a crimp in his day was the absence of his lone senior—and best gymnast—Jesse Murray, who was in Spain for a senior class trip.

"If school wasn't cancelled last week she would have been able to compete when it was scheduled (for Feb. 2)," he said. "Adding her could have added as many as four points to our score."

Even so, the team still faired well. Cunningham wanted a top-10 finish and he got it. The Lady Chief tumblers finished in ninth with a team score of 137.725.

Grand Ledge—the No.1-ranked team in the state—won the meet with a 149.250. Farmington followed with a close 148.750 and Livonia's Blue team rounded out the top three with a 144.900.

In Division 1 competition, freshman Robyn Piwowar had a standout day for Canton. She placed 11th in the all around standings with a total score of 36.4. She tied for third place on the floor exercise with Grand Ledge's Alexis Byington with a 9.55. She scored a 9.150 on the balance beam; a 9.050 on vault; and an 8.650 on the uneven bars.

Canton's other super freshman, Cathy Huang, placed 16th in the all around with a 35.1—her highest finish so far. She had a 9.150 on the vault and a 9.050 on the beam. She scored an 8.55 on floor and an 8.350 on the bars.

Mallory Hudak performed well in Division 2 for Canton. She finished tied in 10th place of the all around standings with a 34.075. She scored a 9.075 on floor—good for ninth place. She had 8.6s on both vault and beam.

"I'm absolutely pleased with the girls performance," Cunningham said. "All in all it was a good meet for us."

Northville

The Northville gymnastics team placed fifth—up from 13th last year—at the meet with a 142.075.

Makenna Pohl was 13th in Division 1 all around standings with a 36.050. She scored a 9.450 on floor—eighth place; a 9.250 on bars for third place; 9.150 on vault, tying for 10th with Canton's Huang; and an 8.2 on beam.

Cassidy Winter scored a 9.05 on vault; an 8.65

on bars; and a 9.15 on floor.

In Division 2, the team's only freshman, Allison Kemp, finished in sixth with a 35.775. She was third on bars with an 8.825 and fifth on vault with a 9.22. She also scored an 8.95 on floor and an 8.8 on beam.

"She had a phenomenal meet," said Northville Coach Erin McWatt. "She is very strong and very powerful and very clean. We just have to work with her on harnessing it. She's had a problem with inconsistency—she would do really good on one event and than not as good on her next one. On Saturday she seemed to put it all together and had a great meet."

Amy Reynolds scored a 9.325 for third place on beam and an 8.3 for tenth place on bars for Northville. Julie Davison scored an 8.70 on the beam.

The Lady Mustangs are geared up for regional competition with hopes of going to the state meet.

"We're ready for the postseason," McWatt said. "I don't have any huge expectations, but I think we will do really well."

Salem

Salem finished just ahead of Canton with a 138.650 for eighth place.

Katie Koetting had a handle on things in Divison 1, finishing in a seventh-place tie with Livonia Blue's Meghan Powers in the all around with a 36.7.

Koettings' best score was on floor where she recorded a 9.5 for fifth place. She scored a 9.425 on the beam for eighth and tied for 10th with Canton's Huang and Northville's Pohl with a 9.15. She had an 8.625 on the uneven bars.

Autumn Collins recorded an 8.825 on beam and an 8.7 on floor.

Salem had two gymnasts place in the Division 2 all around.

Katerina Kariotis tied with Canton's Hudak for 10th place with a 34.075.

Kariotis' best score was on beam with an 8.8 where she tied Northville's Kemp. She scored an 8.7 on vault; and 8.575 on floor; and an 8 on bars.

Teammate Brittany Young followed in 12th place in the all around numbers with a 34.050. Her highest score was a 9.175 on beam for fifth place. She scored 8.25s on both vault and bars.

Plymouth

Plymouth finished 16th overall with a 116.05.

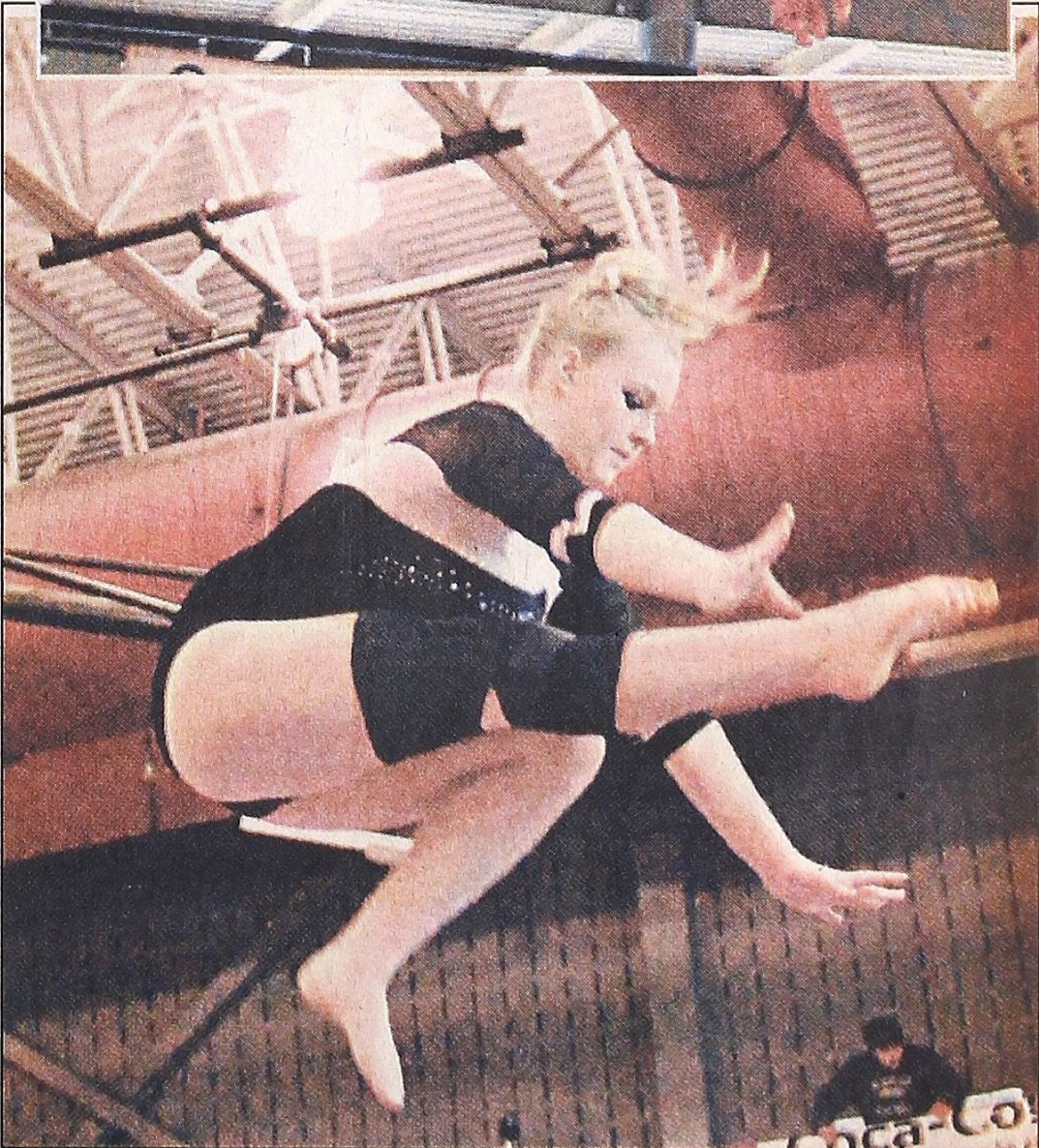
Plymouth's most decorated gymnast Jordan Brodehl—the lone senior, team captain and four-year letterer—finished her last Canton Invite with a total score of 33.350 for 16th in the all around.

She scored an 8.75 on floor; an 8.4 on vault; an 8.15 on beam; and an 8.05 on bars in Division 2 competition.

Brodehl holds all of the school records at Plymouth and made it to the state meet as a freshman, according to Plymouth Coach Diane Hodur.

Hodur worked with Brodehl at Michigan Academy Gymnastics before they both ended up at Plymouth.

"It's been a joy to watch her grow up," Hodur said. "I'm really going to miss her next year."



Salem gymnast Autumn Collins vaults at the Canton Invitational at Plymouth High School on Saturday. She helped the Lady Rocks to an eighth-place finish.

Canton's Cathy Huang (top) leaps during her floor routine on Saturday. Northville's Cassidy Winter (middle photo) flies through the air on a vault during the meet. She scored a 9.05 and helped move Northville up from a 13th place finish last year to fifth this year. Plymouth's most decorated gymnast Jordan Brodehl (above) performs on the beam on Saturday. Photos by Jeff Novak

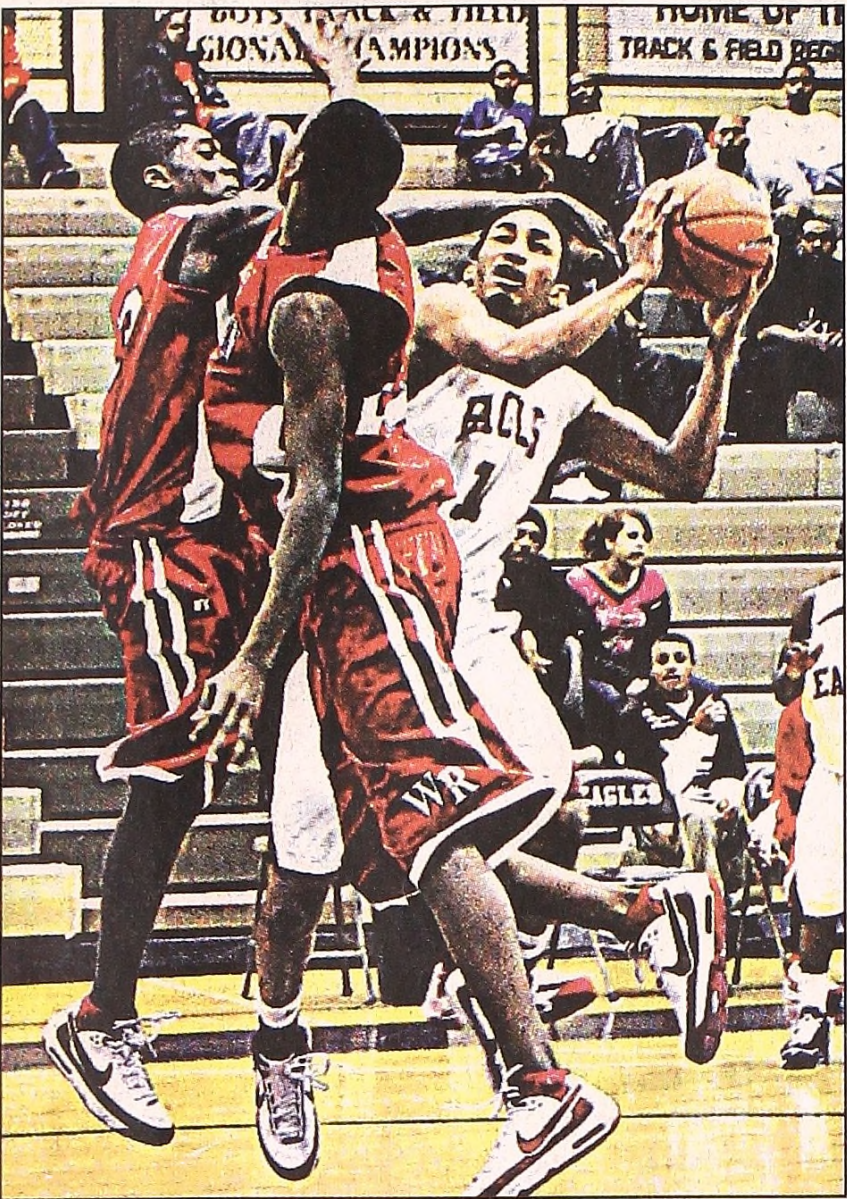
SPORTS

Romulus stays perfect, 10-0, in Red

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Eagle varsity basketball team.
The Eagles stayed perfect (10-0) in the Mega Red Conference with two wins last week over Willow Run and Dearborn Heights

A perfect league record is just two games away for the Romulus



Romulus sophomore DeAndray Buckley gets stuck between two Willow Run defenders on Tuesday in an attempt to make a shot. The Eagles won the game, 63-49. Romulus hosts Detroit Country Day at 7:30 pm on Friday. Photo by Ken Garner

”
I happy with the way
we’re playing right now.

Romulus Coach Nate Oats

Robichaud.
Defense was the key ingredient in the victories—Romulus limited both teams to less than 50 points.
“I happy with the way we’re playing right now,” said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. “We’re guarding really well and playing good defense. That has been the focus the last couple of weeks.”

Romulus held Willow Run to just eight points in two of the four quarters at home last Tuesday. Consistent scoring throughout led the Eagles to a 63-49 victory.

The Eagles raced to a 13-8 lead at the end of one quarter and carried a five-point lead, 29-24, into the locker room at halftime. The Flyers only scored one field goal in the third frame, but made up the difference with six free throws. Romulus outscored Willow Run, 18-17, in the final stanza to put the game away.

Senior guard Dominique Buckley—one of the four nominees for Mr. Basketball honors—led the offense with 20 points, four rebounds and three assists. Junior guard Rashard Porter added 15 points and had five rebounds. Senior forward Will Clyburn scored nine and grabbed five rebounds.

On Friday, the Eagles flew by the Bulldogs, 68-47.

This time, Clyburn led the team with 16 points—including two triples in the first half—and 12 rebounds. Senior forward Martell

Anderson scored 14 with three triples in the first half. Buckley finished with 10 points and five assists.

Romulus was up 26-7 early in the second quarter. Robichaud outscored Romulus in the quarter but the Eagles led, 34-21, at the half. The Eagle defense held the ‘Dogs to

eight in the third and the fourth lent way to a shootout that Romulus won, 20-18, for the win.

“We have guys stepping up every night,” Oats said. “I think we’re really hard to guard because we have so many guys that can score.”

The Eagles have their work cut out for themselves this week when they host Detroit Country Day at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. The perfect conference record is on the line next week when they head to neighboring rival Belleville at 7:30 pm on Tuesday and host Ypsilanti at 7:30 pm next Friday.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JANUARY 28, 2008
IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear.
Excused: Wadsworth,
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-012

2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held January 14, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear,
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-013

3A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to endorse letter of support to the Welsh Company in the Wayne County Land Bank Corporation TURBO Program for its’ proposed development of a 295,000 square feet industrial facility on the north east corner of Ecorse and Cogswell Roads.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-014

3B. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to recommend a ten (10) year 50% tax abatement commencing December 31, 2008 and expiring December 30, 2018, for Aerostar Manufacturing, located at 28275 Northline Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174, pursuant to P.A. 198 as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-015

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to designate Tom Wilson, DPW Director as the City’s Representative and Derrick Schueller, Assistant DPW Director as the alternate Representative for the City of Romulus on the Detroit Water and Sewer Advisory Committee.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-016

5B. Motion by Bragg, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Finance Director, Debra Hoffman to adopt the activities based budget appropriations act for the New Romulus Athletic Center:

CITY OF ROMULUS
RECREATION FUND APPROPRIATIONS ACT
A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET PROPOSED BY
THE MAYOR CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND
EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007 AND
ENDING JUNE 30, 2008.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS:

SECTION 1. That for the expenditures of the City Recreation Fund activities or the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008, the amounts in the following sections are hereby appropriated

SECTION 2. That for the said fiscal year there is hereby appropriated out of the Recreation Fund on an activity basis, the following:

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 521,955

TOT AL REVENUES 518,557

TRANSFER-IN GENERAL FUND 3,398

TOTAL REVENUES & TRANSFER-INS 521,955

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-017

FUND/DEPT.	ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
General Fund Expense	101-2990 729,92-08	Transfer-Out Rec. Fund	0	3,398	3,398
Fund Balance	101-0000-390,000	Undesignated Fund Bal.	1,602,031	(3,398)	1,598,633
To supplement the 07/08 budgeted deficit in the newly established Recreation Fund.					

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-018

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff authorizing elected officials to attend the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 8-12, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes 7 Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-019

6A2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to schedule a Study Session on February 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., to be held in the Romulus City Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174, to discuss Medicare Part D with a brief overview of the program and the federal subsidy that could beneficially impact the City.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-020

11A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds listed in Warrant 08-02 in the total amount of Seven Hundred, Seventy Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety Dollars and Ninety Eight Cents (\$779,290.98).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-021

11B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds listed in Warrant 08-02E in the total amount of Twelve Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy Dollars and Zero Cents (\$12,670.00).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously

12. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on January 28, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: February 14, 2008

MON
Turkey Breast
& Ham

TUE
Meatball Marinara

WED
Turkey Breast

THU
Italian B.M.T.®



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